IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are pending in this application. Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 1-2 and 4-6 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An aldehyde resin binder for a fiber reinforced antifouling paint or paint base, comprising:

a) 2 to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of aldehyde resin of an aluminium di-secalkoxide acetoacetic ester chelate (Component A) represented by the following formula (I) :

~~(Rsub.1 O) sub2 Al (CHsub.3 CO CH CO O Rsub.2)~~

$(R_1O)_2$-Al-(CH_3-CO-CH_2-CO-O-R_2)

wherein ~~R.sup.1~~ R_1 represents a ~~sec. alkyl~~ secalkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms[[,]] or a cycloalkyl group; and ~~R.sup.2~~ R_2 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms[[,]] or a cycloalkyl group; and

b) [[0,5]] 0.5 to 8 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of aldehyde resin of a monoalkoxy organotitanate-IV (Component B) represented by the following formula (II):

~~Rsub.3 O Ti (X) sub.3~~ R_3-O-Ti $(-X)_3$,

wherein ~~Rsub.3~~ R_3 is a monovalent organic group having from 2 to 30 carbon atoms or a substituted derivative thereof; X in the above ~~formulae~~ formula independently represents an acylate group, a sulfonic acid residue, a phosphoric acid residue or a pyrophosphoric ester residue, or a mixture thereof, and

wherein the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component B is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base composition.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~paint or paint base~~ aldehyde resin binder of claim 1, wherein the total amount of said ~~fiber reinforced~~ aldehyde resin plus said ~~additive~~ Component A is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base composition.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A process for providing a high-build marine antifouling paint or paint base characterized by a fiber-reinforced aldehyde resin as binder and containing metalliferous pigments which are sparingly soluble in seawater which comprises the steps of :

(a) adding ~~said Aluminium di-sec-alkoxide~~ aluminium di-secalkoxide acetoacetic ester chelate (Component A) and thereafter

(b) adding ~~said~~ monoalkoxy organo-titanate-IV (~~Component B as defined in Claim 1~~ Component B) to said aldehyde resin to provide a paint or paint base, said ~~additive~~ Component A being present in an amount of between about [[0,4]] 0.4 % and about 4%, and said ~~additive Component B as defined in claim 1~~ Component B being present in an amount of between about [[0,2]] 0.2 % and about 2%, the total amount of said ~~Additive~~ Component A and ~~Additive~~ said Component B being between about [[0,5]] 0.5 % and about 5% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base,

wherein said Component A is represented by the following formula (I) : $(R_1O)_2$-Al-(CH_3-CO-CH_2-CO-O-R_2) and said Component B is represented by the following formula (II) : R_3-O-Ti $(-X)_3$, and

wherein the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component B is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base composition.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The process of claim 4~~ A process for providing a high-build marine antifouling paint or paint base characterized by a fiber-reinforced aldehyde resin as binder and containing metalliferous pigments which are sparingly soluble in seawater which comprises the steps of :

(a) adding aluminium di-secalkoxide acetoacetic ester chelate (Component A) and

(b) adding monoalkoxy organo-titanate-IV (Component B) to said aldehyde resin to provide a paint or paint base, said additive Component A being present in an amount of between about 0.4 % and about 4%, and said Component B being present in an amount of between about 0.2 % and about 2%, the total amount of said Component A and said Component B being between about 0.5 % and about 5% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base,

wherein said Component A is represented by the following formula (I) : $(R_1O)_2$-Al-(CH_3-CO-CH_2-CO-O-R_2) and said Component B is represented by the following formula (II) : R_3-O-Ti $(-X)_3$,

wherein the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component B is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base composition, and

wherein steps (a) and (b) are carried out simultaneously.

6. (Currently Amended) An antifouling coating composition, comprising a binder containing metalliferous pigments which are sparingly soluble in seawater formed by a process which comprises the steps of adding said aluminium di-sec-alkoxide acetoacetic ester chelate (Component A) and thereafter adding said monoalkoxy organo-titanate-IV (~~Component B as defined in Claim 1~~ Component B) to said aldehyde resin to provide a paint or paint base, said ~~additive~~ Component A being present in an amount of between about [[0,4]] 0.4 % and about 4%, and said ~~additive~~ ~~Component B as defined in claim 1~~ Component B being present in an amount of between about [[0,2]] 0.2 % and about 2%, the total amount of said ~~Additive~~ Component A and ~~Additive~~ said Component B being between about [[0,5]] 0.5 % and about 5% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base and, one or more auxiliary additive selected from the group consisting of pigments, antisettling agents, plasticizers, solvents, biocides, fibers, stabilizers and film consumption regulators,

wherein said Component A is represented by the following formula (I) : $(R_1O)_2$-Al-(CH_3-CO-CH_2-CO-O-R_2) and said Component B is represented by the following formula (II) : R_3-O-Ti $(-X)_3$, and

wherein the total amount of said aldehyde resin plus said Component B is between about 15% and about 45% based upon the total weight of the paint or paint base composition.